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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Conditions in the Coastal
Sector: Military Installations/Frontier Security/Soviets
in Poland/Railroads/Agriculture/Youth/PartisansDATE DISTR. 10 Oct 1952
50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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Military Installations

1. "During 1951 at Orlowska Gora, catapults have probably been built for projecting long-range torpedoes. There are both mobile and stationary antiaircraft guns at Orlowska Gora, but exercises are carried out mainly with the mobile guns. They take place daily. There is probably long-range coastal artillery there as well.
2. "At Nowy Port in Gdansk there is both antiaircraft and coastal artillery.
3. "In Gdynia, antiaircraft guns are placed at Grabowek, behind the Don Emigracyjny. Barbed wire surrounds the entire area from the Don Emigracyjny to the Szkola Morska, which is an artillery base. On Grabowek there is a military base over 10 km long which extends into the forest. It comprises a hilly area which is entirely patrolled by military sentries. People say that rocket catapults have been built there

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50X1-HUM

61

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4. "Antiaircraft artillery, artillery and marine infantry (Baton Morski) units have quarters at the Domy Emigracyjne on Grabowek. New barracks have been built around those emigration houses.
 5. "It is rumored that the Polish Air Force will be transferred from Babie Doly to Wrzeszcz and replaced at Babie Doly by the Soviets. At Babie Doly, underground hangars are being built both day and night for future Soviet jet planes.
 6. "There are antiaircraft artillery and reflectors at Witomin in Gdynia. A Polish eyewitness told me that in the forest of Witomin over 10,000 Soviets are buried in mass graves. They were shot by the Soviets themselves just after World War II. They were Soviet workers who had been repatriated from Germany. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 7. "In January 1950 the regional military commandant in Gdynia was Major Broniewski. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 8. "Soviet infantry and armored forces (bron pancerna) and antiaircraft guns are stationed in the forest near Kolobrzeg. They probably amount to a division. The morale and discipline of these troops has deteriorated considerably. Cases of Soviet soldiers attacking Polish girls are more and more frequent. In certain cases, women have been murdered, to liquidate all traces. These cases are, of course, never mentioned publicly.
- Frontier Security
9. "The entire coast is guarded by WOP and dogs. In the Spring of 1952 the Ministry of Defence issued a new order whereby it is forbidden to walk on the sand within 15 meters of the water's edge. This leaves a belt of sand which must be kept free of all traces so that the WOP can check whether anybody comes ashore. The authorities fear the penetration of enemy agents. One can bathe or sit on public beaches only from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (At Gdynia the public beach is behind the old Riviera Hotel restaurant near Kamienna Gora). In the evening people are forbidden to go into the forests. Only the public roads may be used. This has been decreed in order to prevent any contacts with partisans. On the coast the borders of the forests are guarded at night by WOP soldiers with trained dogs. 50X1-HUM
 10. " [redacted] five Western agents arrived in May 1952. 50X1-HUM
on the coast at Kolobrzeg. Four were killed during the landing. The fifth was caught later and sent to Warsaw by special plane. [redacted]
[redacted] it is foolish to send agents in by the coast. It is much too well guarded. There are observation points and MG nests everywhere in the marshy ground, e.g., near Szczecin ('moczary koło Szczecina'). [redacted] those five 50X1-HUM
[redacted] were Ukrainians who spoke poor Polish. To send an agent to any place in Poland without a reliable receiver who can immediately take care of him and hide him is murder. The regime manages to find traitors and spies everywhere. Infiltration of Poland with agents is now much more difficult than during the German occupation.
 11. "Ever since the unsuccessful landing of those agents in Kolobrzeg in May 1952, the coastal railroad stations have been under close WOP control. Rigorous inspections of identity cards and searches of private homes were carried out in Kolobrzeg in June, 1952, usually between one and four a.m. Trains are also inspected.
 12. "On the Polish-Soviet frontier a large belt has been ploughed and edged with barbed wire. The entire frontier is guarded with observation towers and MG nests. If somebody escapes from the USSR into Poland the Soviet frontier guard is authorized to search for his person throughout Poland. The Polish guards are not even permitted to come very close to the Soviet frontier.
 13. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
letters from the coastal district to foreign addresses are censored at Bydgoszcz. This is usually done in a way which cannot be detected by the recipient. Post office and telephone jobs are reserved for active Party members. Former officials have been fired wholesale. At the 'sea post office'

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- 3 -

('poczta morska') in Gdynia there have been several cases of thefts of parcels from abroad. [redacted] the thieves were members of the post office UB and Party confidants. [redacted] the authorities [redacted] ordered to keep the incident secret. The thieves were especially interested in parcels from the US.

50X1-HUM

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Soviets in Poland

14. "The number of Soviets in the Polish Army has increased. Now Soviets can often be observed even in the ranks of captains and company chiefs. Of course they wear Polish uniforms. Since men from various years are drafted into the Polish Army as conscripts or reserves and the entire system is secret, it is difficult to tell whether four or five years are under arms at present.
15. "It is rumored that the number of Soviet workers at the Dom Kultury in Warsaw is already several thousand. They are all young, fit, strong guys. The Poles suppose they are armed. The rumors has been spread that their aim is to be a Fifth Column in Warsaw so that, in the event of war, the city will come under Soviet control immediately and the Poles will be unable to repeat the same sort of insurrection which took place in World War II with the Germans. The people of Warsaw are so hostile to these Soviets that several have been found killed or wounded at night. The Soviets are now afraid to circulate in Warsaw after dark. All such incidents are kept secret, however, Soviet officers and even workers when they get drunk do not hesitate to tell the Poles that they will kill them if a war comes.
16. "The following incident [redacted] in Gdynia is typical of the daily small frictions between the Soviets and Poles. Three, smartly dressed Soviet families came into a food shop at Ulica 10-Go Lutego. They announced that the shop had nothing they wanted to buy. The irritated Polish shopgirl replied, 'And have you much over there?' The Soviets left the shop ashamed.
17. "Most of the Soviet officials in Gdynia live with their families in comfortable flats on Wzgorze Focha (Foch Hill). The Poles say that they don't know how to behave and that the Soviet children have spoiled the flats, particularly the bathrooms where they trample in the tubs with their boots on. The bath-rooms look like pigsties. [redacted]
[redacted] It is said that the Soviet officers living at Sopoty behave in the same manner.

50X1-HUM

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Railroads

18. "Several tunnels have been built on the railroad line from Gdansk to Grabowek. A two-way electrical railroad line from Tczew to Wejherowo was put into use in May 1952 between Gdansk and Sopoty. In Gdansk a special tunnel has been built to the harbor. It passes under the main streets. This is to prevent possible interruptions in transport due to war damage.
19. "In Gdynia a six gauge viaduct has been built between 10. Lutego and Slaska Streets. Formerly, the viaduct had only two gauges.
20. "Senior engine drivers on the Polish railways often complain of the poor state of their engines, the poor quality, of the coal and the over-heating of furnaces because of too long shifts. They say that the main reason for this state of affairs is that most of the railroad personnel are new and young and think only of overfulfilling norms, winning premia and becoming prominent. They do not think of conserving the materials with which they work.
21. "People cannot speak freely on trains. There are plenty of agents listening to all conversations. A train conductor told me that many agents travel on free tickets.

Industry

22. "Although cement factories are now more numerous in Poland, construction of private flats was stopped in 1952. All cement is needed for military purposes, for fortifications, airfields and coastal sentry boxes. At various

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50X1-HUM

points in the interior, antitank triangles are being built, directed against the West. Private persons can get neither cement nor bricks. For a jute bag imported from the USSR, Poland pays five zlotys. When the selfsame bag is filled with cement, it is sold back to the USSR for four zlotys, this being the price of both cement and bag.

23. "The Josef Stalin locomotive factory (formerly known as Cegielski) in Poznan works day and night assembling locomotives for the USSR. They are sent to Elblag, where they are changed over to broad gauge and sent to the USSR.

24. "The former Paget State Timber Company has been liquidated. A Soviet timber base has taken its place.

Agriculture

25. "Most of the Pomeranian landed estates are administered by the State as sovkhoses (PRG). Peasant sabotage against PRG estates are more frequent even than against collective estates. In the country during the spring of 1952 there were several incidents of sabotage. Kolkhozes were burnt down at Pogorze, near Orlowo, and at other points. All buildings, machinery and seed grain were destroyed. Many agricultural laborers were arrested in punishment. All government estates are now supervised by special PGR guards.

26. "The majority of the kolkhozes are badly managed, and the work is done carelessly. Much of the crop is lost because the sowing is finished too late. It must be remembered that many of the former rural economic managers sit in prison as 'political reliables'. Their successors often lack the necessary qualifications. Sometimes the local Party bosses indulge in abuses. In 1951, for example, the chief of the district UB ('powiatowy') at Chojnice confiscated horses, harnesses, carriages and furniture from peasants in the district Chojnicki, for failure to deliver their norms in time. The peasants complained to the superior authorities in Warsaw. It was proved that the commissar had acted on his own initiative and kept the confiscated goods for his own use. He was arrested, but most of the goods had been lost.

50X1-HUM

27. "A pupil of the Communist Activist School in Gdansk told me that in the spring of 1952 the pupils were sent to the various villages of the Gdansk voivodship to conduct searches ('rewizje') on the farms of those peasants who had not delivered their entire quota of agricultural produce in time. They were ordered to collect the quotas by force.

28. "In 1952 a registration of hens, goats and rabbits took place in the small towns as well as in the rural districts, in preparation for the collection of quotas from even the small breeders in the towns. Some time ago the authorities started encouraging townspeople to breed rabbits.

29. "It has been forbidden to have food stored privately. If more than six kilograms of sugar, or other food in larger quantities, is found in private homes, the head of the family is arrested and accused of sabotaging the State ('sabotaz panstwowy'). War rumors caused many people to start drying bread. As a result of several attacks on food stores, cooperative shops now have grates in their windows. Each evening after closing, the manager of a cooperative shop must hand over the key to the head office of the cooperative society. He must then fetch it in the morning. This has created many difficulties, especially in the provinces where a shop manager has to go several miles to his head office.

Prices

50X1-HUM

30. "In the spring of 1952 the prices for vegetables were fantastically high. A kilogram of tomatoes cost 150 zl. in Gdynia. Blackmarket butter was 50 zl. meat was short, even on the blackmarket. A kilogram of sausage in the shops is 80-90 zl. 'First class' sausage is sold without coupons. The shortage of meat and fat is the greatest food problem. First category heavy workers receive meat or coupons four times a month, 20 deka a time. Second category workers get very little. Eggs in the shops cost 1.20 zl apiece; eggs on the blackmarket cost 1.50 zl. apiece. Shop milk is watered.

50X1-HUM

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- 5 -

31. "There is a great shortage of sole leather. In a cooperative shop it costs 80 zl. to have shoes resoled. The soles are very thin and last only a short time, about a week. Private shoemakers get no leather. They must use rubber soles. Shoes in cooperative shops cost up to 500 zl. in private shops up to 1,000 zl.
- Youth
32. "As more and more in the army and heavy industry expands, more and more girls are compelled to do heavy manual work in the shipyards, factories and fields. They are poorly paid: 300-400 zl. per month. Work camps are organized for boys and girls together, where they often behave like young animals, for there is no sort of supervision. In order to escape the heavy work and get some paid leave (three weeks before birth, six weeks after), these girls try to get pregnant. If they don't succeed in getting married, they often give their child to a state orphanage ('gospitales'). If they wish, they can take it home at night. If they want the State to take over the education of the child completely, they surrender all rights to it. It is then educated in a sort of modern 'janina'. There seems to be a certain secret tendency on the part of the authorities to get as many illegitimate children as possible. If a girl is punished or scolded by her family for getting into trouble, she can complain to the ZNA; her parents are then punished.
33. "The young people who are opposed to the regime have little chance to show their discontent. In 1951 more than 10 girls at the Ursula Convent on the Ulina Avenue in Gdynia were arrested for alleged anti-government activities. Their parents have had no news of them. The Ursulanki schools were among the finest before World War II and very fashionable in better society. The schools get no State support, and their graduates are not admitted now to any college.
34. "Parents are beginning to send seven-year old children to holy communion because they fear that religious persecutions may deprive their children of the communion altogether.

"Status of the Partisan Movement"

35. A real partisan movement, as during World War II, does not exist any more. Only those who have no other choice escape to the forests. Most of them are young. These people used to get help from young peasants who still had weapons from World War II and could supply them with food. The most fanatical opponents of the regime are among the peasants. The peasants and the partisans have committed various acts of sabotage. Lately, however, there have been more and more provocations. Informacja (political intelligence) has dressed agents in the clothes of captured partisans, given them forged papers and sent them into the forests. These faked 'partisans' visit peasant homes at night, asking for food. This leads to reprisals by the authorities against the peasants who helped an agent. Entire peasant families have disappeared for this reason. The peasants have therefore become careful and are afraid to help unknown partisans. The situation of many partisans has become precarious. Without the support of food and warm clothes from local peasants, no partisan movement or forest existence for the politically persecuted is possible in winter. In summer they can steal potatoes from the fields, but in winter it is difficult to get any sort of food. At present, in various districts, peasants agree to support partisans only if one among has a friend in the village who can testify that the men coming to get food or other support are indeed partisans.
36. "Partisans are active in the voivodships of Lublin, Rzeszow and Bialystok. But even in Gdynia food shops are raided. The police are afraid to show themselves at night in the Gdynia streets. A reliable friend who works on a mail train has told me that all mail transports by rail must be protected by armed guard against possible partisan attack. In the spring of 1952 a train was stopped on the Gdynia - Szczecin line. All in the mail car were ordered to lie down. Their weapons were removed, the mail car journal inspected and all the money taken. The authorities keep such incidents absolutely secret. They also quash any reports of the occasional attempts on Communists in various parts of Poland. The reports run from north to south but are usually known only in the district where an incident occurred. In June 1952 14 heavily armed guards escort 12 lads of military age from the prison of Wejherowo through the former Slaska Street in Gdynia to Gdansk. It was very early in the morning. Political prisoners are often transported in hospital cars to avoid sensation and incidents. The prison sentries are very often Ukrainians or Polish Communists.

50X1-HUM

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- 6 -

50X1-HUM

"General Attitudes

50X1-HUM

"More and more people have become adherents of a United States of Europe. They believe that Europe's nations have lost enough blood and that, as the result of wars and starvation, the youth in Poland is physically degenerating. A great many people consider that permanent wars about frontiers are ruining Europe and will cause her annihilation. Many people feel too that any future Poland will be unable to keep the new West Polish Territories because of the demands of a strong Germany. That is why the Poles who live there do not attach themselves much to their new homes. They hope some day to return to the lost territories in the East. Security, however, is the first desire, though some of the young think otherwise. The Government, by the way, is eager to support archeological research in the Western territories, to help establish Poland's historical rights to the area."

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